

Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 L-03 NSC-04 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-02 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 SP-03 EB-05

COME-00 FRB-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 CEA-01 CIEP-01 OMB-01

INT-01 XMB-01 DRC-01 AID-07 IGA-02 TAR-01 AGR-03 /086 W

----- 043166

R 160817Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1888

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USEC MISSION BRUSSELS

USOECN MISSION PARIS

UNCLAS TOKYO 6400

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN'S EXPORTS AND IMPORTS -- APRIL -- PROVISIONAL

REF: TOKYO 6340

PASS TREASURY AND FEDERAL RESERVE

SUMMARY: WORST OF JAPAN'S PAYMENTS DEFICITS IS OVER AND
FURTHER IMPROVEMENT EXPECTED IN MONTHS AHEAD, SAYS MOF
OFFICIAL. B/P SUMMARY PARA IN REFTEL GENERALLY HIGHLIGHTED
IN JAPANESE PRESS REPORTS. SHARP RISE IN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
EXPORTS OF 12.8 PERCENT OVER MARCH AS AGAINST ONLY 1.5
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PERCENT RISE IN IMPORTS IS CONSIDERED BY SOME ANALYSTS

AS REPRESENTING FUNDAMENTAL TURNAROUND IN TRADE ACCOUNTS DURING CURRENT RECESSIONARY PERIOD. OVER HALF (57 PERCENT) OF INCREASE IN EXPORTS ON CUSTOMS BASIS COMPARED WITH APRIL 1973 CONCENTRATED IN FOUR CATEGORIES (SHIPS, IRON AND STEEL, MOTOR VEHICLES, AND TEXTILES). FOLLOWING ARE CUSTOMARY DETAILS ON APRIL TRADE PROMISED IN PARA 6 REFTEL. END SUMMARY.

1. PRELIMINARY CUSTOMS DATA FIGURES ARE PRESENTED AS USUAL IN DOLLARS. HOWEVER, RATE OF EXCHANGE USED FOR APRIL 74 WAS YEN 265.19 PER DOLLAR FOR EXPORTS AND YEN 265.25 FOR IMPORTS. PRELIMINARY CUSTOMS DATA SHOW GLOBAL EXPORTS \$4,244 MIL (YEN 1,179,562 MIL) UP 50.6 PERCENT AND IMPORTS \$5,311 MIL (YEN 1,475,694) UP 89.6 PERCENT FROM YEAR AGO. TOTAL EXPORTS TO U.S. IN MIL DOLLARS 942.6, UP 30.1 PERCENT FROM APRIL 73. IMPORTS FROM U.S. 1,120.6, UP 60.9 PERCENT.

2. BY SPECIAL CLASSIFICATION, GLOBAL IMPORTS OF AGRICULTURAL GOODS UP 56.6 PERCENT FROM APRIL 73, CONSUMER NONDURABLES UP 155.4 PERCENT, DURABLES UP 17.4 PERCENT, INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES UP 101.8 PERCENT, AND CAPITAL EQUIPMENT UP 74.4 PERCENT. IMPORTS OF IRON ORE AND STEEL SCRAP UP 54.2 PERCENT AND UP 2.9 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY; IMPORTS OF COAL AND CRUDE OIL UP 59.3 PERCENT AND UP 307.3 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY; IMPORTS OF SOYBEANS JP 32.1 PERCENT; IMPORTS OF UMBER UP 5.4 PERCENT. GLOBAL EXPORTS OF MOTOR VEHICLES UP 47.5 PERCENT (PASSENGER CARS UP 47.1 PERCENT) AND MOTORCYCLES UP 64.7 PERCENT.

3. CUSTOMS EXPORTS TO U.S.: TV'S DOWN 8.2 PERCENT FROM APRIL 73, RADIOS UP 0.4 PERCENT, TAPE RECORDERS DOWN 19.4 PERCENT OPTICAL INSTRUMENTS (INCLUDING CAMERAS) UP 34.2 PERCENT. IRON AND STEEL UP 34.7 PERCENT. SYNTHETIC TEXTILES DOWN 23.1 PERCENT, CLOTHING DOWN 22.4 PERCENT, CHEMICALS UP 38.6 PERCENT, COTTON FABRICS DOWN 12.8 PERCENT, FOODSTUFFS UP 6.1 PERCENT, FISH AND SEAFISH UP 12.4 PERCENT. EXPORTS OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT DOWN 4.3 PERCENT AND THOSE OF METAL PRODUCTS UP 48.3 PERCENT. MOTOR VEHICLES WERE UP 62.4 PERCENT, AND MOTORCYCLES UP 105.9 PERCENT.

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PERCENT.

4. CUSTOMS IMPORTS FROM U.S.: TOTAL FOODS UP 76.6 PERCENT FROM APRIL 73, BEEF DOWN 73.5 PERCENT, FISH AND SHELLFISH DOWN 9.9 PERCENT, SOYBEANS UP 35.4 PERCENT, FEED CORN UP 46.8 PERCENT, SORGHUM UP 90.2 PERCENT, WHEAT UP 147.3 PERCENT, RAW COTTON UP 72.7 PERCENT. LUMBER WAS DOWN 7.0 PERCENT. OFFICE EQUIPMENT UP 73.9 PERCENT,

AIRCRAFT UP 941.9 PERCENT, METAL MATERIALS WERE DOWN
25.3 PERCENT, WHILE CHEMICALS WERE UP 124.6 PERCENT
AND NONFERROUS METALS UP 41.4 PERCENT.

5. CRUDE OIL IMPORTS IN APRIL WERE 24.3 MIL KILOLITERS
AMOUNTING TO \$1,675 MIL. THIS COMPARES WITH 24.1 MIL
KILOLITERS AND \$1,592 MIL IN MARCH, AND 23.2 MIL
KILOLITERS AND \$411 MIL IN APRIL 73.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, COAL, IRON, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, IMPORT DATA, EXPORT DATA, FOODS, AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, SOYBEANS, METALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO06400
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740121-0190
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740541/aaaabjyu.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TOKYO 6340
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 NOV 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <05-Nov-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPAN'S EXPORTS AND IMPORTS -- APRIL -- PROVISIONAL
TAGS: EFIN, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005